



Conservation & Cost-Share

There are numerous conservation programs available through various agencies that operate at the District level. Financial incentives are available in the form of cost share and tax credits through these programs for landowners who would like to prevent the degradation of their natural resources and maintain productivity. Technical assistance in the design and installation of all best management practices is provided to ensure their success.

Cost share programs are, however, only part of the picture. Effective, long term planning for conservation involves a broader perspective which includes the development of a conservation plan. Conservation planning helps a landowner attain sustainable use and sound management of soil, water, air, plant and animal resources. Resource professionals with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the VA Department of Forestry, the Farm Service Agency, and the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District are available to assist landowners in developing sound conservation plans.

The table outlines these programs and provides basic criteria for each program. Landowners may utilize these programs as tools in developing a conservation plan for their land.

For more information on conservation planning and incentive programs, contact the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District or NRCS at 540-347-3120. FSA (540) 347-4402; Dept. of Forestry (540) 347-6358.

Conservation Incentive Programs Available in the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District						
Program	Cost Share Rate to Establish Practices	Agreement Period	Requirements	Annual Rental and Other Payments	Other Cost-Sharing	Where & When to Sign-Up
CRP Conservation Reserve Program	50%	10 - 15 years	cropping history during at least 4 out of the previous 6 years	Soil Rental Rate, +\$5 incentive, +\$5 maintenance (county cap)	None	Contact FSA for signing period
CRP Continuous	50%	10 - 15 years	waterways and riparian areas only	Same as CRP	None	FSA
CREP Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	50 - 75%	10 - 15 years	livestock exclusion, riparian buffers minimum 35' - 100', only grazed pastureland or cropland	\$73 - \$100/acre	VA BMP Program	FSA Continuous Signup
WRP Wetlands Reserve Program	75 - 100%	Permanent Easement, 30-year Easement, 10-year Cost Share Agreement	livestock exclusion, must join two natural areas, must be a prior converted wetland	One time payment for up to 100% of appraised Ag value, not to exceed \$1,200	None	NRCS Continuous
EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program	Up to 75%	2-10 years Must be part of conservation plan	threat to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on land	None	VA BMP Cost Share Program	FSA or NRCS
WHIP Wildlife Incentive Program	75% of estimated costs	5 - 10 years	not restricted to agricultural land	None	Partners for Wildlife, VA BMP Program	NRCS Continuous
RT Reforestation of Timberlands	\$22/acre	10 years	Water quality BMP's must be installed. Pines only. 100-acre maximum.	None	None	VA Department of Forestry
Virginia BMP Program	up to 75%	5 - 10 years	existing water quality problems	None	None	John Marshall SWCD/Continuous
Virginia BMP Loan Program	Low interest 3% loans - no maximum.	5-10 years	must be an eligible practice	None	None	John Marshall SWCD/Continuous
BMP Tax Credit Program	25% of out-of-pocket expenses	5 - 10 years	existing water quality problem	None	BMP Program	John Marshall SWCD/Continuous
Virginia Small Business Environmental Compliance Assistance Fund	Low-interest (3%) loan of up to \$100,000	variable	Small business finance compliance with Federal Clean Air Act, voluntary pollution prevention, or Agricultural BMP's	None	None	DEQ John Marshall SWCD
ECP Emergency Conservation Program	50 - 64%	10 years	Damage to agricultural production due to declared agricultural emergency.	None	None	FSA